

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended and claims 7-9 have been added.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Beeghly U.S. Patent No. 4,336,463. Reconsideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The amendments to claims 1 and 2 and, therefore, claims 3-6 clearly distinguish the '463 patent. The amendments make clear that a different response is possible to catastrophic and noncatastrophic conditions, that the change to the low power mode is only required sometime after shutdown due to a catastrophic condition, and that the parallel power supplies enable continued operation and monitoring by the annunciator even without the output of the first power supply enabling continuing safe operation based upon the battery power supply.

With Applicant's claimed annunciator, the first and second power supplies are truly in parallel in the sense that either power supply can supply power to the entire circuit. (The battery power supply of the '463 patent can only supply the display and the latching circuit.) Hence, even if the ignition power supply fails in a way that does not result from failure of the ignition itself, the Applicant's annunciator can continue to display conditions and to protect against catastrophic conditions requiring shutdown. The prior art lost engine protection capability any time the ignition voltage dropped below the Zenor voltage of the Zenor diode 36 (see Fig. 2 of the '463 patent).

With regard to claims 1 and 2, it is clear that entry into the low power mode and shutdown is not required by every sensor input. The switch to the low power mode is based upon an output from the logic means and not simply as the result of a failure of the first power supply. As long as the engine is running safely, the annunciator may be left in the

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normal mode and run off the battery. In the case where the Applicant's claimed annunciator monitors remote equipment, such as offshore platforms, continued safe operation of the battery may save a large expense.

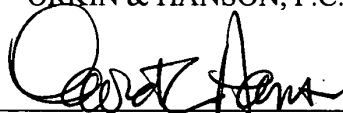
Because the microprocessor and selected input polling circuits are powered during the low power mode, it is possible to pole some sensors even in the low power mode. This feature can be beneficial when arriving at a system that has shut down to learn the cause of the shutdown.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is urged this case is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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